

this issue. I cannot support this increase, especially under the current circumstances with so much unfinished business.

Unfortunately, many initiatives I support were also included in this package. Among them is the repeal of the telephone excise tax, a revenue used originally to help fund the Spanish-American war. This three percent surcharge is among the most regressive taxes, and I was proud to be an early cosponsor of the effort to repeal it. In addition to cosponsoring the original legislation, I voted to repeal this tax when the repeal was offered as an amendment to the estate tax repeal.

In a time of unprecedented surpluses, we must fix some of the inequities in the tax code. I am disappointed we have not managed to accomplish more. Once again, this is indicative of the overly partisan nature of Senate activity, and this partisanship has blocked fair tax reform. Nonetheless, I am pleased we have at least resolved the federal telephone excise tax, a reform which will save all Americans \$51 billion over the next decade. I commend the major telephone providers for committing to pass fully these savings to consumers, and I once again regret that the unique and deplorable manner in which this Congress is fulfilling its responsibilities forced me to vote against this package.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIM DAE-JUNG

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Kim Dae-jung, the President of South Korea, on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for 2000. This award is well-earned for a great leader whom many call the "Nelson Mandela of Asia." President Kim's life-long dedication to peace and reconciliation is evident in the fact that he had been nominated for this award on 14 different occasions. Last Friday's announcement made President Kim his nation's first Nobel laureate, a source of great pride for the people of South Korea.

Kim Dae-jung has led an extraordinary life, highlighted by an unwavering commitment to democracy. In fact, throughout his career, President Kim has been willing to risk his own life in standing up for the principles that allow South Korea to be the great nation it is today.

President Kim has indeed paid a heavy price for speaking out against totalitarian rule. Shortly after his first run for President in 1971, Kim was nearly killed in a car accident that many believed to be an assassination attempt. Two years later, he was kidnapped by South Korean agents, ostensibly because he was perceived as a threat to the status quo. He would have been killed, had the United States not intervened. In the years that followed,

President Kim survived jailings, house arrest, exile and numerous beatings.

Three years ago, President Kim campaigned on an innovative, open approach to reconciliation with North Korea, which he called the "sunshine policy." This policy of building ties with the North is on a scale that has not been seen in the history of postwar Korea. After winning the election, President Kim, a forgiving and religious man above all, pardoned the former military rulers who tried to kill him as his first act in office. He has also been a positive force for South Korea's economy which was at a low point when President Kim was elected. The South Korean economy grew by 10.2 percent in 1999 and is projected to grow by 6 percent in 2000.

President Kim's "sunshine policy" culminated in a June summit between the leaders of North Korea and South Korea. The summit was a success, and set a tremendous precedent for the relationship between the two countries. Speaking of the meeting, President Kim said, "the Korean people are one; we have a common fate. There is nothing we cannot do if we make steady efforts with good faith and patience." The possibility for continued conversation between North and South gives me great hope that the two sides have taken the first steps to a true and lasting peace.

The rebuilding process between the Koreas has been enhanced by several small but meaningful achievements. North Korea and South Korea have pledged to work on rebuilding roads and rail lines between the two countries. Earlier this summer, a brief reunion occurred of families separated by the Korean war 50 years ago. Just last month, the entire world was moved when the North Korean and South Korean teams marched together in the opening ceremonies of the Sydney Olympics.

I had the opportunity to meet President Kim in 1986 when he was under house arrest. I was very moved by his courage and faith and thought that he would some day lead his beloved nation. It is with great happiness that I take this opportunity to congratulate Kim Dae-jung and the people of South Korea on this historic occasion.

A SALUTE TO THE SAILORS OF THE U.S.S. "COLE"

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened by the loss of the brave men and women of the U.S.S. *Cole*. October 12, 2000 will long be remembered as a day of heavy emotions for our armed forces and all American people. All of our hearts have been consumed with anger and sorrow at the senseless act of terrorism that, on that day, left seventeen United States sailors dead, and thirty-nine injured. All young, all promising, all dedicated to

defending America's values and way of life.

But my heart is also filled with pride in these men and women. Our sailors served in the finest traditions of the Navy, selflessly dedicating themselves to serving our country with bravery and integrity. And I rise today to honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty. We will not forget your superb service and ultimate sacrifice.

As I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the families of the *Cole* Sailors, let me also say to the world that the United States will not rest until those responsible for this attack are held accountable for this atrocious destruction of innocent American life. Let there be no mistake. We will use every tool in our arsenal to track down and charge our adversaries for this cowardly act.

The British poet A.E. Housman wrote, "The troubles of our proud and angry dust are from eternity and shall not fail. Bear them we can, and if we can, we must." Housman's poem speaks to our strong tradition of persistence and moral courage to stand up for our values. Let our resilience signal to the world that no terrorist attack can encroach our resolve. We will not shrink to defeat, but grow stronger in our commitment to securing peace and stability throughout this nation's areas of interest. Seventeen U.S.S. *Cole* sailors did not suffer tragic deaths in vain. They died protecting freedom, and defending the greatest nation on Earth.

So now, I join my colleagues and the families of the U.S.S. *Cole* crew in solemn prayer for these brave sailors, the protectors of America's great democracy. God bless you and God bless America.

FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased the President recently signed into law the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act. As you know, Senator JON KYL and I introduced last year a bill to require Federal prisoners to pay a nominal fee when they initiate certain visits for medical attention. Fees collected from prisoners will either be paid as restitution to victims or be deposited into the Federal Crime Victims' Fund. My State of South Dakota is one of 38 States that have implemented State-wide prisoner health care copayment programs. The Department of Justice supported extending this prisoner health care copayment program to Federal prisoners in an attempt to reduce unnecessary medical procedures and ensure that adequate health care services are available for prisoners who need them.

My interest in the prisoner health care copayment issue came from discussions I had in South Dakota with a number of law enforcement officials

and US Marshal Lyle Swenson about the equitable treatment between pre-sentencing Federal prisoners housed in county jails and the county prisoners residing in those same facilities. Currently, county prisoners in South Dakota are subject to State and local laws allowing the collection of a health care copayment, while Marshals Service prisoners are not, thereby allowing Federal prisoners to abuse health care resources at great cost to state and local law enforcement.

As our legislation moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate last year, we had the opportunity to work on specific concerns raised by South Dakota law enforcement officials and the US Marshals Service. I sincerely appreciate Senator KYL's willingness to incorporate my language into the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act that allows state and local facilities to collect health care copayment fees when housing pre-sentencing federal prisoners.

I also worked with Senator KYL and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to include sufficient flexibility in the Kyl-Johnson bill for the Bureau of Prisons and local facilities contracting with the Marshals Service to maintain preventive-health priorities. The Kyl-Johnson bill prohibits the refusal of treatment for financial reasons or for appropriate preventive care. I am pleased this provision was included to pre-empt long term, and subsequently more costly, health problems among prisoners.

The goal of the Kyl-Johnson Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act is not about generating revenue for the Federal, State, and local prison systems. Instead, current prisoner health care copayment programs in 38 States illustrate the success in reducing the number of frivolous health visits and strain on valuable health care resources. The Kyl-Johnson bill will ensure that adequate health care is available to those prisoners who need it, without straining the budgets of taxpayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the inductees into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for the year 2000. Located in Akron, OH, the National Inventors Hall of Fame is America's shrine to those who have made significant contributions to our nation, and improvements to the quality of life for all mankind. As Governor of Ohio, I was proud to speak at the dedication ceremony for this magnificent facility in July of 1995, and I was pleased to have the Hall also serve as the backdrop for the Edi-

son Innovator Awards my office presented to companies throughout the State of Ohio.

Inductees into the National Inventors Hall of Fame represent the epitome of ingenuity and inspiration, and this year's class is no exception. Inductees for the year 2000 include: Walt Disney, whose name has become synonymous with imagination and creativity; Reginald Fessenden, whose pioneering work in the area of wireless communication led to the modern radio broadcasting industry; Helen and Alfred Free, whose work developing the "dip-and-read" urinalysis test greatly eased the lives of those suffering from diabetes; J. Franklin Hyde, whose discovery of fused silica made possible the fiber optic cable so widely used today; William Kroll, who escaped Europe before the onset of World War II, and whose work in his home laboratory resulted in a process that allows titanium and zirconium to be produced; and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer and the inventor of the modern personal computer.

Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door. In modern parlance, one might say that technological advancement is the engine that drives our economy. It is the biggest contributor to increasing our standard of living here in the United States, and the best way to improve the lives of individuals the world over. This progress is essentially made possible through the protection of intellectual property that is afforded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the main force behind the founding of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In today's rapidly changing world, the Patent and Trademark Office is the "safe haven" that encourages men and women to accept the challenge to build the better mousetrap through the protection of creativity and what our minds can produce.

Consider the accomplishments of the 158 inventors enshrined at the Hall. Consider the contributions they have made to society: to prolonging our lives and making them more enjoyable; to reducing our workload; and to allowing us to explore new continents and the heavens themselves. It is easy to see the power of invention and the tremendous impact inventors have on all of us.

As an Ohioan, I am always struck by the ingenuity and sheer determination of two Dayton bicycle workers who dared to believe that they could defy gravity with their winged invention. Little did the Wright Brothers realize that 66 years after their historic flight, man's inquisitive nature would improve upon their invention and put another Ohioan—Neil Armstrong—on the moon.

Invention is progress, and I salute the work of America's inventors, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and

the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio, for their continuing efforts to improve and enrich our lives.●

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SHEHEE

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleague, Senator BREAUX, in recognizing the great civic contributions of my dear friend, Virginia Shehee. It is so appropriate that the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana should be gathering to honor this amazing woman, whose vision and energy led to the creation of the Foundation and the many benefits that it has produced for the citizens of Shreveport—Bossier and Northwest Louisiana.

I have known Virginia Shehee and come to treasure her example and her friendship in my service as a State official in Louisiana and in my first term as a U.S. Senator. To those of us who believe that Louisiana must move aggressively to be part of the knowledge-based economy, the evolution of Biomed and the opportunities it has come to represent stand as a model of civic leadership and foresight. It is the story of a community that dared to dream big dreams at a time in its history when those dreams seemed most remote.

But those dreams are coming true, and young people who once had to leave home to participate in the new economy are now finding significant career opportunities in Northwest Louisiana. Of all the community leaders who can share in the credit for this remarkable achievement, none has played a larger role than Virginia Shehee. Her grit and unyielding persistence led to millions of dollars in state and federal construction and program dollars for a Biomedical Research Institute. And her salesmanship and gentle charm have opened doors to a world of promising cooperative relationships and new corporate citizens for Shreveport.

Some years ago, not too long after the Institute opened its doors, Virginia led a blue-ribbon group of Shreveporters, some half her age, on an industry-hunting trip through the mid-Atlantic and New England. Nothing could capture the indefatigable energy of the leader of the trip more than the words of a lapel button, which someone distributed to participants after the trip: "I Survived Shehee's March!"

As the CEO of one of Louisiana's largest companies and as a leader in the insurance industry, as one of the earliest women members of the Louisiana Legislature, as a caring steward of our great state university, as a devoted wife and mother and as someone who gives utterly selflessly and endlessly to her community, Virginia Shehee has earned the love and admiration of all of us who are privileged to know her and work with her. It will be